

F820004-1728

No. 223

AMERICAN CONSULATE

Valparaiso, Chile, April 26, 1940

1940 MAY 1 PM 12 47

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

RECEIVED
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
MAY 10 AM 10 25

SUBJECT: Doctor Hermann Frederick Erben

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to the Department's Strictly Confidential mimeographed instruction of February 21, 1940 (file no. 130-Erben, Hermann Frederick), concerning the activities and whereabouts of Doctor Hermann Frederick Erben. This Consulate, under date of January 29, 1940, and February 1, 1940, sent to the Department despatches relating to the activities of Doctor Erben.

I have now received the following letter from Doctor Erben, which was undated:

GRACE LINE

Panama Line
On Board S.S. PANAMA

My dear Mr. McNiece:

May I most respectfully ask you to be kind enough to investigate the forwarding of my mail. When I was last in Valparaiso I was informed, that some mail had been forwarded for me to: San Francisco Bank, California Street, San Francisco, Calif. The bank informed me no mail whatsoever had arrived. I am very much worried and would thank you very much in assisting me to locate my mail. Please address all communications to my permanent New York address: Dr. H. F. Erben, 140 E. 57th St., New York City.

/I

Division of
FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS
MAY 1 1940
Department of State
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE
MAY 1 1940
MR. BEALE
File
noted
5-16-40

130-ERBEN, HERMANN FREDERICK

JUL - 1 1940

"I take pleasure to inform you, that I have finally succeeded to get a position as surgeon on the Panama liner PANAMA. I have had a very trying time in New York and my friends a even worse time. The fact that I had served on a german ship has been construed to label me as a most dangerous german spy! The Navy intelligence as well as the F.B.I. have run down my friends, to force them to divulge any facts they might know about me!!

"It has been extremely painful for me to realize that I am a stigmatized man once more, and any friend I might have lunch with, would face a third degree, having extended hospitality to me, once more a moral leper! I can assure you, that the government is once more torturing an innocent man. As a matter of fact you, having had a chance of observing my actions abroad, sure will be surprised to hear, that of all men, its me, they have once more singled out, to suspect of a most hideous crime. But despite of all I am proud of being a loyal american citizen, even if I am proud to suffer unjustly for being, by my own choice, an american citizen..

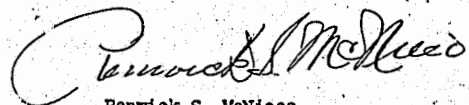
"Thanking you in advance, for helping me to get my mail, that has not reached me so far.

I beg to remain

Most respectfully Yours

(Signed) H. F. Erben, M.D.

Respectfully yours,


Benwick S. McNiece,
American Consul

Submitted in quintuplicate to the Department
Extra copy for the Embassy, Santiago
Extra copy for the Consulate, Antofagasta

130-Erben, Hermann Frederick

RSL/msl

RECEIVED
JUN 10 1941
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE